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World Production and Trade

United States
Department of
Agriculture
Foreign
Agricultural
Service

March 19, 1986

Weekly

Roundup

Washington, D.C. 20250

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

GRAIN AND FEED

Australia's Wheat Support Price Higher Than Expected. The Australian Wheat Board (AWB) has set the 1985/86 guaranteed minimum price for Standard White wheat at A\$149.87 per ton (US\$105). Given currently declining wheat prices and the 27-percent decrease in the 1986 U.S. wheat loan rate, the Australian minimum price is higher than had been expected. In U.S. dollar terms, the new price represents about a 3-percent decline from last year's level of US\$108 per ton. In Australian dollars, the new guaranteed minimum price is A\$3 per ton higher than the preliminary guaranteed minimum price announced in August and about A\$4 per ton higher than the 1984 minimum price. The U.S. agricultural counselor in Canberra reports that the higher guaranteed price is the result of larger than anticipated wheat export sales and returns, and lower than expected marketing costs.

The AWB finalized this year's price several months later than usual. Possibly this was due to the uncertainty regarding the size and quality of the Australian crop, but more likely it was the result of the uncertainties surrounding the impact of recent U.S. agricultural legislation on the world wheat market.

United Arab Emirates To Try U.S. Wheat. The United States could capture a share of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) wheat market if upcoming trials on U.S. wheat are successful, according to the U.S. agricultural trade officer in Manama. Following several years of market development efforts by U.S. Wheat Associates and the Foreign Agricultural Service, flour mills in Dubai and Abu Dhabi have agreed to run milling and baking trials on U.S. western white and hard red wheats. Until now, the two privately owned mills have imported Australian wheat exclusively to fulfill the UAE's average annual wheat import requirement of 60,000 tons. Price, and especially freight rates, will be other critical factors in the mills' decision to switch to U.S. wheat.

-more-

GERALDINE SCHUMACHER, Editor, Tel (202) 447-7115. Additional copies may be obtained from FAS Information Division, Room 5922 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Tel (202) 447-7937.

U.S. Wheat Exports to Nigeria May Decline. U.S. wheat exports to Nigeria could drop by as much as 25 percent in calendar year 1986 due to Nigeria's falling oil revenues, according to the U.S. agricultural attache in Lagos. In an attempt to reduce its agricultural import expenditures and conserve foreign exchange, the government of Nigeria is reassessing its grain import requirements and, to date, has not issued any import licenses for 1986. Even when import licenses are issued, U.S. wheat sales to Nigeria will continue to face stiff competition from Canadian and Argentine wheat, at least until the new U.S. wheat crop becomes available. Prior to the 1985/86 season, the United States had supplied about 90 percent of Nigeria's average annual wheat imports of 1.6 million metric tons.

OILSEEDS

Argentina Changes Export Taxes. Argentina has announced it will reduce its export taxes for soybeans, sunflowerseeds and their products. According to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Buenos Aires, the new export tax percentage rates (and the previous rates in parentheses) are: soybeans, 28.5 (34.0); soybean meal 16.5 (20.5); soybean oil, 16.5 (20.5); sunflowerseed, 25.5 (28.5); sunflowerseed meal, 21.5 (23.5); and sunflowerseed oil, 16.5 (18.5). The new rates will narrow slightly the differential in taxes between oilseeds and their respective products.

Philippines To Liberalize Imports Under NFA Jurisdiction. The Philippines' National Food Authority (NFA) reportedly will no longer require private importers to have prior approval permits, according to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Manila. This could mean an increase in soybean meal imports, as demand has generally exceeded availabilities. U.S. meal exports to the Philippines are running behind a year ago, but reduced competition from China could boost U.S. prospects for the remainder of the year. USDA currently estimates 1985/86 soybean meal imports by the Philippines at 350,000 tons.

Tunisia To Build Soybean Crushing Plant. A private Tunisian company, along with a multinational company and Kuwaiti interests, are planning to build a soybean crushing plant in the country, according to the U.S. agricultural trade officer in Tunis. The plant will become operational two years after construction begins, and crush 300,000 tons of imported soybeans annually. The plant will export meal and oil production in excess of Tunisia's needs.

TOBACCO

China's Tobacco Crop Headed for All-Time High. China's 1985/86 unmanufactured tobacco crop is estimated at a record-large 2,311,304 tons, according to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Beijing. The latest estimate is 11,304 tons above the previous forecast in December largely because of an upward revision in total harvested area. The biggest increase was in flue-cured tobacco which represents 90 percent of the Chinese crop.

COCOA

Ecuador's Cocoa Production Down From Last Season. The forecast for 1985/86 cocoa production in Ecuador has been revised downward to 85,000 tons, according to the U.S. agricultural attache in Quito. The forecast is 34 percent below the 1984/85 record outturn of 128,000 tons.

DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Soviet Union May Buy EC Intervention Butter. The Soviet Union is negotiating for purchase of 100,000 tons of old butter acquired under the European Community's intervention program. The Soviets typically import about 200,000 tons of butter a year so this sale could potentially cover one half of Soviet butter import needs for 1986. The Soviets are believed to be seeking unsalted butter. The average price is likely to be below the GATT minimum, but within the International Dairy Arrangement derogation. The United States sells no butter to the USSR, so this sale is unlikely to have any impact on U.S. trade.

United Kingdom Challenges EC Hormone Ban. The United Kingdom (U.K.) has applied to the European Court of Justice seeking annulment of the European Community (EC) directive banning the use of all growth hormones in livestock fattening. If implemented, the ban could curtail U.S. beef and variety meat trade with the EC valued at over \$81 million.

A directive banning the use of hormone growth promoters was adopted by the EC's Council of Agriculture Ministers by a majority vote on Dec. 31, 1985. The United Kingdom voted against the Directive on the grounds that there was no scientific evidence justifying the ban and that any decision should have been by unanimous vote. If successful, the U.K. challenge could invalidate the current ban and force the EC to call for a new vote.

The ban provided for in the Directive is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 1987, for all member states except the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom received a one-year extension and will not have to enforce the ban until Jan. 1, 1988.

World 1985 Meat and Egg Production Up. World meat production in 1985 is estimated at 126.6 million tons, an increase of 3 percent from 1984. Slower growth is expected in 1986 due to a decline in beef production and more modest growth in the pork and poultry sectors. Much of the 3-percent increase in world red meat output in 1985 was due to a sharp rise in Chinese pork production. World poultry meat production increased 4 percent in 1985 mostly due to larger output in the United States, Brazil and the Soviet Union.

	World Mea	t Production	
	1984	1985 1/	1986 2/
	M	illion tons	
Beef and veal	41.9	42.5	41.7
Pork	51.6	54.0	54.7
Sheep and goat meat	4.6	4.8	4.7
Total red meat 3/	98.2	101.3	101.1
Poultry meat 3/	24.3	25.3	26.0
Total meat 3/	122.5	126.6	127.2

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Total may not add due to rounding.

World beef production increased about 550,000 tons, or slightly more than 1.3 percent, during 1985 while cattle numbers fell about 3.0 million head largely due to herd culling in the United States, Canada, the European Community (EC) and Soviet Union. U.S. cattle number numbers fell 4 percent during 1985 to 105.5 million head, the lowest level since 1963. U.S. beef production increased slightly in 1985, but it is expected to decline in 1986.

Canadian cattle inventories continued to decline in 1985 because of both poor prices and drought in the West. EC-10 cattle numbers fell in 1985 as dairy herd culling continued. For 1986 EC-10 beef production should be down about 275,000 tons compared to the 150,000 ton decline in 1985 as dairy herd culling diminishes.

Soviet herd numbers fell by 300,000 head as slaughter and beef production increased in 1985, due in part to increased herd culling. For 1986, beef production is expected to be unchanged as heavier slaughter weights offset a decline in the number slaughtered.

In Australia cattle herd rebuilding continued during 1985 but at a slower pace than in 1984 as slaughter increased in response to higher prices. Argentine beef production increased during 1985 and is expected to remain near this level in 1986 due to herd culling despite decontrol of domestic beef prices.

Cattle Numbers and Beef Production 1/

	Beginni	ng cattle	einventory	Beef and	veal pr	oduction
	1984	1985	1986 2/	1984	1985 3	/ 1986 4/
		Million h	nead	Mi	llion to	ns
United States	113.7	109.7	105.5	10.9	11.0	10.5
Canada	11.4	11.0	10.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
EC-10 5/	79.4	78.8	77.6	7.4	7.3	7.0
East Europe	37.9	37.8	37.3	2.5	2.4	2.4
Soviet Union	119.6	121.1	120.7	7.2	7.4	7.4
Argentina	58.6	58.8	57.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
Uruguay	9.5	9.9	10.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Australia	22.2	22.7	23.6	1.2	1.4	1.4
New Zealand Total of	7.6	7.8	8.0	0.4	0.5	0.5
51 countries	962.3	964.9	962.0	41.9	42.5	41.7

1/ Includes buffalo numbers and meat production. 2/ Estimate. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Forecast. 5/ Does not include Spain and Portugal which joined the European Community on Jan. 1, 1986.

World pork production rose sharply in 1985 due largely to higher production in China and the EC. A slightly smaller expansion is projected for 1986 because of slower growth in Chinese production.

Hog numbers in China rose to over 331 million head and pork production increased sharply in 1985 in response to a 30-percent rise in market prices. A slower growth in Chinese pork production is projected for 1986 due to a reported decline in profit margins. EC pork output expanded in 1985 because of abundant feed supplies and further gains are expected in 1986.

In the Soviet Union, hog numbers fell slightly during 1985 as did pork production. For 1986, pork production is expected to increase as improved early season feed supplies result in higher carcass weights. In most of Eastern Europe, hog numbers are down as a result of feed shortages and weak export markets. However, Polish hog numbers are up sharply because of strong domestic demand and low feed prices.

Hog Numbers and Pork Production

	Begin	ning hog	inventory	Pork	production	1
	1984	1985	1986 1/	1984	1985 2/	1986 3/
	19.0mm	-Million	head	Mi	llion tons	3
	320 108					
United States	56.7	54.1	52.3	6.7	6.7	6.6
Canada	10.7	11.0	10.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
EC-10 4/	79.2	79.7	81.4	9.7	9.9	10.1
East Europe	73.3	73.6	71.2	6.6	6.5	6.6
Soviet Union	78.7	77.9	77.6	5.9	5.8	5.9
China	298.5	306.8	331.5	14.5	16.5	17.0
Total of						
37 countries	700.8	706.3	728.7	51.6	54.0	54.7

1/ Estimated. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Forecast. 4/ Does not include Spain and Portugal which joined the EC on Jan. 1, 1986.

World sheep and goat meat production expanded in 1985 due mostly to larger output in Australia and New Zealand. In Australia production was up 22 percent as herd rebuilding slowed and some culling took place in response to low prices. In New Zealand drought caused a reduction in the sheep inventory and production expanded. During 1986, more normal weather conditions in New Zealand are expected to encourage herd rebuilding and production is likely to be down. In the Soviet Union dry weather and winter blizzards caused major herd reductions in 1985.

Sheep Numbers and Goat and Sheep Meat Production

PARTY OF STREET	1984	1985	inventory 1986 1/ head	1984	1985 2/	t production 1986 3/ tons
Australia New Zealand	139.2	149.7 69.7	154.0 67.9	0.45	0.55 0.73	0.54
Soviet Union Total of	145.3	142.9	140.3	0.87	0.83	0.80
30 countries	685.3	688.4	689.6	4.63	4.77	4.68

^{1/} Estimated. 2/ Preliminay. 3/ Forecast.

World poultry meat production exceeded 25 million tons in 1985, 4 percent above 1984. Strong growth in the United States, a recovery in Brazil following the previous year's downturn and further growth in the Soviet Union contributed to the increase. During 1986 world output is expected to grow 3 percent with the United States, Brazil and the Soviet Union again providing most of the global increase. Current relatively favorable profit margins indicate production in the United States will grow about 5 percent in 1986. Output in the Soviet Union is expected to expand 3-4 percent in 1986, similar to the expansion in the past three years. Poultry meat output in France and Hungary, major exporting countries, is expected to show little change in 1986.

			ry and Egg		duction	171 707	
		Total po	oultry meat	3		Eg	
	1984	1985 1	./ 1986	2/	1984	1985 1	/ 1986 2/
		Thousand	tons			Billio	n units
United States	7,435	7,814	8,224		68.5	68.2	68.4
Brazil	1,398	1,530	1,590		8.5	9.0	9.5
EC-10 3/	4,275	4,326	4,369		70.4	70.6	69.7
Spain	789	800	810		10.1	10.2	11.0
Hungary	405	415	415		4.3	4.5	4.6
Soviet Union	2,686	2,800	2,900		76.5	77.0	77.5
Total 4/	24,262	25,259	25,994		362.7	367.0	368.9

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Does not include Spain and Portugal which joined the European Community Jan. 1, 1986. 4/ Includes 44 countries for poultry meat and 40 countries for eggs.

World output of eggs in 1985 is estimated at 367 billion, up 1 percent from 1984. Output in Algeria and Iraq was up sharply as new production facilities were completed in those two countries. Output in the United States, the EC-10 and the USSR was largely unchanged.

Global egg production in 1986 is expected to show little change. In the United States, tight profit margins are expected to restrain 1986 growth. Output in the USSR again is expected to increase moderately. Production in the EC-10 is forecast to decline in 1986 as some countries, particularly the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, attempt to create a better balance on domestic markets.

Following extremely rapid growth during recent years, egg production in Algeria is expected to increase only about 6 percent in 1986. Surplus production during the fall of 1985 reportedly has made Algerian producers more cautious. In Iraq, another large production increase is expected as plants and facilities currently under construction come into production.

World broiler production in 1985 totaled an estimated 19.2 million tons, up over 4 percent from 1984. Production in the United States was up almost 5 percent as producers responded to favorable broiler prices and lower feed costs. Production in the EC showed little change in 1985 as problems of overproduction continue to characterize the region. Output in Brazil recovered during 1985 as the domestic market showed improvement. Broiler output in Japan was up as producers responded to lower feed prices and stronger demand, particularly during the first half of 1985.

In 1986, world output of broiler meat is forecast to expand about 3 percent, mostly due to continued expansion in the United States and the Soviet Union. Production in France, the Netherlands and Hungary, all significant exporters, is expected to be largely unchanged. In Brazil, further growth in domestic demand and in production to meet that demand is expected.

World turkey meat production in 1985 is estimated at 2.5 million tons, 6 percent above 1984. The increase in the United States was largely a result of favorable grower returns during 1984 and 1985. Production increases estimated for the United Kingdom and Germany were a result of further expansion in domestic demand. World production in 1986 is forecast at 2.6 million tons with growth in the EC and the United States expected to continue at about the same rate as in 1985.

	y balla	Broiler and '	Turkey Meat	Producti	on	
		Broiler			Turkey meat	
	1984	1985 1/	1986 2/	1984	1985 1/	1986 2/
		Thousand to	ons		Thousand	tons
United States	5,902	6,175	6,470	1,218	1,331	1,460
Brazil	1,360	1,490	1,550	38	40	40
EC-10 3/	2,903	2,927	2,954	734	757	772
Spain	719	725	745	17	18	19
Hungary	335	345	345	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soviet Union	1,475	1,610	1,710	90	100	105
Total 4/	18,351	19,188	19,820	2,330	2,484	2,626

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Forecast. 3/ Does not include Spain and Portugal which joined the EC Jan. 1, 1986. 4/ Includes 37 countries for broilers and 20 countries for turkey.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

As of March 18, export enhancement initiatives had been announced for the following 11 countries: Algeria, Egypt, North Yemen, Morocco, Turkey, Jordan, Philippines, Zaire, Iraq, Nigeria and Tunisia. Six commodities were approved for the programs: wheat, wheat flour, semolina, rice, poultry and barley malt. The volume of wheat in the initiatives announced to date represents about 22 percent of the projected level of U.S. wheat exports in fiscal 1986 and the volume of wheat actually sold represents 11 percent of the projected fiscal 1986 wheat export total. The volume of all commodities announced under the export enhancement program to date represents about 5 percent of total projected agricultural exports in fiscal 1986.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM Status as of March 18, 1986 (metric tons)

		(metric tons)	
ANNO	UNCED		
INIT	CIATIVES	QUANTITY	RESULTS/STATUS
1.	Algerian Wheat	June 4 1,000,000	Sold 1,000,000 COMPLETE
2.	Egyptian Wheat Flour	July 2 600,000	Sold 175,000
3.	Egyptian Wheat	July 26 500,000 October 30 500,000	Sold 500,000
4.	Yemen Wheat Flour	August 20 50,000	Sold 30,000
5.	Yemen Wheat	September 6 100,000	
6.	Morocco Wheat	September 30 1,500,000	Sold 760,000
7.	Turkey Wheat	October 16 500,000	Sold 506,600 COMPLETE
8.	Jordan Rice	November 8 40,000	
9.	Philippine Wheat Flour	November 15 100,000	Sold 50,000
10.	Zaire Wheat Flour	November 18 64,000	Sold 30,000
11.	Egypt Poultry	November 26 8,000	Sold 8,000 COMPLETE
12.	Iraq Wheat Flour	December 9 150,000	Sold 37,500
13.	Nigeria Barley Malt	December 10 100,000	
14.	Zaire Wheat	December 27 40,000	Sold 20,000
15.	Philippine Wheat	January 7 150,000	Sold 152,400 COMPLETE
16.	Algerian Semolina	February 11 250,000	
17.	Algeria Wheat Flour	February 25 100,000	
18.	Tunisia Wheat	March 18 300,000	
	Announced to date Sold to Date	6,600,500 (grain equi 3,387,100 (grain equi	
	Bonus	968,700 (\$142.2 mi)	llion at book value)

RECENT PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Current World and Domestic Coffee Outlook and Situation. This joint staff analysis by the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Economic Research Service summarizes, among other things, the potential impact of the Brazilian drought on 1986/87 global coffee supplies, recent trends in green coffee prices, recent trends in U.S. coffee use, and projections of how high retail prices of roasted cofee are likely to rise. Single copies of this paper are available free by contacting Milton Anderson, FAS, Room 6097 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Tel (202) 447-2252.

Emerging Agricultural Markets in the Pacific Rim. This study assesses agricultural trade opportunities for a wide variety of products and includes both narrative ananlysis as well as commodity trade statistics covering 126 agricultural products imported by the Pacific Rim group. Paper copies of this report are available for \$30. A full set of the statistics also is available on 5-1/4 inch micro-computer diskettes formatted in Lotus 1-2-3 Version 1A for \$30. A paper copy of the report plus diskette is available for \$50. Order from AIMS, Room 4649 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Tel (202) 447-7103.

Selected International Prices

Item	: March	18, 1986	: Change from : a week ago	: A year
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/	\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT	\$ per MT
Wheat:	To make 9	SELECT THE SECOND		
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.	N.Q.			183.00
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%	165.00	4.49	+4.50	165.00
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W10/	119.00	3.24	0	164.00
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D	164.00	4.46	+5.00	177.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum	N.Q.		sand Teacher	187.00
Feed grains:				
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn	112.00	2.84	+.50	135.00
Soybeans and meal:				
U.S. No. 2 Yellow	218.70	5.95	+.50	244.00
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets	204.00		+4.00	155.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal	198.00		+4.00	150.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 3/				
Wheat	115.36	3.14	+.73	123.08
Barley				78.54
Corn	90.16	2.29	+1.57	105.91
Sorghum	79.81	3.62 2/	+1.10	94.58
Broilers	1121.70		+.22	1095.02
EC IMPORT LEVIES				
Wheat 5/	157.70	4.29	+.30	43.40
Barley	148.95	3.24	+1.90	46.35
Corn	142.20	3.61	+.60	41.85
Sorghum	145.05	3.68	-4.50	54.55
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/ EC INTERVENTION PRICES 7/ 9/	N.Q.			
Common wheat(feed quality)	192.10	5.23	+1.95	133.00
Bread wheat (min. quality)	204.15	5.55	+2.10	141.35
Barley and all	204.13	3.33	. 2 • 20	141.55
other feed grains	192.10		+1.95	133.00
Broilers 4/ 6/	N.Q.			
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsid				
Wheat	86.80	2.36		16.10
Barley	109.80	2.39		28.25
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/	N.Q.			

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f.,
Rotterdam. 2/ Hundredweight (CWT). 3/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted
average. 4/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 5/ Reflects lower EC
export subsidy--down to 20.00 ECU/100 bag effective 9/14/83 from 22.50 ECU/100
bag set in 2/83. 6/ F.o.b. price for R.T.C. broilers at West German border. 7/
Reference price. 8/ Reflects change in level set by EC. 9/ Changes may be
due partly to exchange rate fluctuations and/or ECU payments. 10/ June
shipment. N.A.=None authorized. N.Q.=Not quoted. Note: Basis April delivery.

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